4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~3, wherein the data frame further includes a test pattern.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 1, wherein~~ comprising:

broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon, the data frame ~~is~~ being broadcast after a definitive time period has elapsed after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon; and

broadcasting a data frame that includes at least load balancing information.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein the data frame is broadcast immediately after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein the broadcasting of both the special DTIM beacon and the data frame is performed by an access point.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~7, wherein the load balancing information is computed from information pertaining to characteristics of wireless units in communication with the access point.

A1

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.

10. (Original) A method comprising:

providing an access point; and

broadcasting a modified beacon from the access point to a plurality of wireless units, the modified beacon comprises (i) a plurality of information elements including at least one of an access point name, an access point internet protocol information and a load balancing information, and (ii) a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of information elements.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon further comprises (iii) a test pattern, and (iv) a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic indication message (TIM) beacon.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is each traffic indication map (TIM) beacon and each delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

15. (Original) A method comprising:

modifying a beacon configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 to produce a modified beacon, the modified beacon comprises a plurality of additional information elements including at least one of an access point name, an access point internet protocol information and a load balancing information; and

broadcasting the modified beacon.

A1

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon further comprises a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of additional information elements.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the modified beacon further comprises a test pattern and a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic indication map (TIM) beacon.

20. (Currently Amended) An access point comprising:

logic to broadcast a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 standard; and

logic to broadcast a data frame that includes at least one of a load balancing information and a test pattern.

21. (Original) The access point of claim 20, wherein the data frame broadcast from the access point includes both the load balancing information and the test pattern.

A1

22. (Original) The access point of claim 20, wherein the load balancing information includes data pertaining to wireless units in communication with the access point and the access point.

23. (Original) The access point of claim 20, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.

A2

24. (New) The access point of claim 20, wherein the logic broadcasts the data frame after a definitive time has elapsed after the special DTIM beacon has been broadcasted.